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Where can I find information about Michigan's Bottle Bill?

Michigan is one of eleven states with a beverage container deposit law. The Michigan Beverage Containers Initiated Law of 1976 (Michigan Bottle Deposit Law), commonly known as the bottle bill or bottle deposit law, was implemented on December 3, 1978. The stated purpose of the bottle bill was to reduce roadside litter, clean up the environment, and conserve energy and natural resources. Several Michigan state agencies have involvement with different portions of the bottle bill. To find the bill, go to www.michiganlegislature.org and do a search for MCL Sections 445.571 to 445.576 or click on www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wmd-swp-Bottle-Bill.doc.

Only "beverage containers" require a deposit and may be redeemed. The law states that a beverage means a "soft drink, soda water, carbonated natural or mineral water, or other nonalcoholic carbonated drink; beer, ale, or other malt drink of whatever alcoholic content; or a mixed wine drink or a mixed spirit drink." In 1989, Michigan passed a law giving retailers 25 percent of the unclaimed deposits. The other 75 percent is deposited in the state's environmental fund. Unclaimed deposits that revert to the state are collected by the Department of Treasury.

If you have problems returning beverage deposit bottles to a store that sells that brand, first contact the store manager about the situation. If the store still will not accept containers that are clean, clearly labeled as deposit containers, and sold by the retailer, contact the Michigan Department of Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at: www.michigan.gov/ag to [file a written complaint](#) or call 1-877-765-8388.

Bringing beverage containers from out-of-state on which no deposit was paid in Michigan for the purpose of collecting a deposit on the containers is illegal. Each fraudulently returned container reduces the amount of money that goes to community pollution prevention projects or cleanup and redevelopment of polluted sites.

See the "MICHIGAN BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" at www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wmd-swp-mibottledepositlawFAQ1.pdf for more information on Michigan's bottle bill and who to contact for questions about:

- How the unclaimed monies are used
- Redeemed deposit reporting, accounting forms, and other vendor issues and
- Container labeling requirements.

Information about other states' bottle bills can be found at www.container-recycling.org.